



Press Release: *Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities* gives award to top Special Education teacher.

(For immediate release)

January 10, 2023

The awards committee for *Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities* announced today that the 2023 Teacher of the Year will be awarded to Dr. Ann Katherine Griffen. Dr. Griffen, of Fayette County Public Schools in Kentucky, has taught students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities for over 20 years. In addition to her teaching, Dr. Griffen has contributed to training of the next generation of teachers through contributions in university teaching and pre-service practice. She has also worked collaboratively on several research projects with partners from the University of Kentucky. As expressed by her nominators, Drs. Melinda Ault and Channon Horn, of the University of Kentucky, "We have collectively been working in the field of special education for 65 years, and in that time, neither of us have encountered a special education teacher on the caliber of Dr. Griffen." Highlighting Dr. Griffen's emphasis on student engagement, program staff collaboration, and instructional assessment and planning, her nominators state, "Upon observing in her classroom, visitors are left with the impression that it runs like a well-oiled machine." They further note that Dr. Griffen "has positively affected numbers of students, families, preservice educators, and other professionals with whom she has interacted over the course of her career."

This prestigious award is presented by the *Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD)*, a special interest association within the *Council for Exceptional Children*, the largest international professional organization in the world dedicated to supporting the needs of students with disabilities. Originating in 1963, *DADD* is a leading voice in the field of education for students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities through research dissemination, active participation in the creation of nationally-recognized professional practice standards, and robust professional networking. The award

ceremony will take place at DADD's annual conference in Clearwater, Florida on January 19, 2023.

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Information on the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities:

<http://www.daddcec.com/>